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18 August 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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*USSR-Cuba: [] Soviet military shipments to Cuba in the past month have included electronic, transportation, and construction equipment. As many as 20 of the Soviet ships which have arrived since late July are suspected of having carried military cargoes. At least some of the Soviet personnel which arrived concurrently with these shipments are known to be engaged in military construction activity. The exact nature of this construction activity is not known, but the limited information available thus far suggests it may include initial work on surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites to augment Cuba's air defense system. []

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USSR-Berlin: Khrushchev may have met recently with European satellite leaders to review with them his next moves on Berlin and Germany. [] Gomulka reportedly is in the USSR and has met with Ulbricht. [] The other satellite leaders may have made unpublicized trips to the USSR since 10 August.

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[] Despite the continuing Soviet war of nerves over the possibility of early action on a separate peace treaty, the USSR and East Germany have reiterated their preference for a negotiated settlement and hinted at flexibility on the crucial issue of the presence of Western forces in Berlin. [] The Soviet leaders probably are convinced, however, that they cannot obtain important Western concessions without substantially heightening their pressure on the Western position in Berlin. They may feel that the Vostok flights and continued nuclear testing can be exploited to increase the effectiveness of such pressures. []

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DAILY BRIEF

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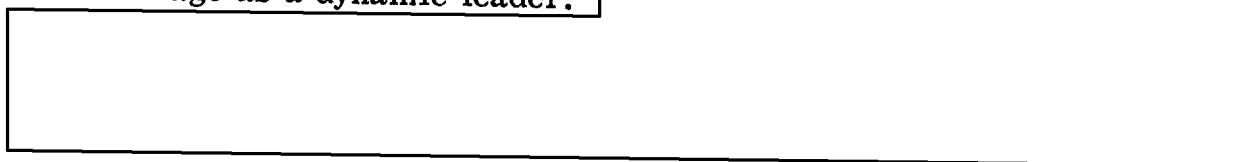
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Algeria: Leaders of Algeria's military regions (wilayas) are blocking attempts by Ben Bella's political bureau to handpick candidates for the Constituent Assembly elections on 2 September. The US consul general in Algiers feels that Wilayas III and IV -- which control the Algiers area and the Berber stronghold to the east--are the major obstacles.

Rather than accept a compromise list of candidates, which would result in an assembly he probably could not control, Ben Bella may postpone the elections and try to reduce the power of the wilaya commanders. In any event, his failure to win a speedy, clear-cut victory on this issue will tarnish his public image as a dynamic leader.

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DAILY BRIEF

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